

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2 and 5.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended multiple claims. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections – Drawings

The Drawings were objected to because Figures 1, 2, and 5, fail to show a legend describing the labels on the Figures as described in the specification. Corrections to the drawings are shown on the enclosed sheets. The Examiner's approval of the drawing changes is respectfully requested.

Examiner Objections - Claims

The Examiner objected to Claim 29 because of an informality. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-8, 12-37 and 41-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ala-Laurila (US Patent No. 6,246,871). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection and has further amended the claims to more distinctly and clearly claim the subject matter which Applicant believes as his invention. A favorable reconsideration is requested.

The present invention, as disclosed and claimed, deals with providing a mailbox to a subscriber that can be managed and controlled by the subscriber to make messages in the mailbox available for an addressed party. The mailbox (also referred to as an outbox, as opposed to an inbox) is monitored, available to access by the subscriber to modify or delete stored messages (including fax, e-mail, video mail, voice mail) and may be accessed via a telephone network or the Internet. As the Ericsson

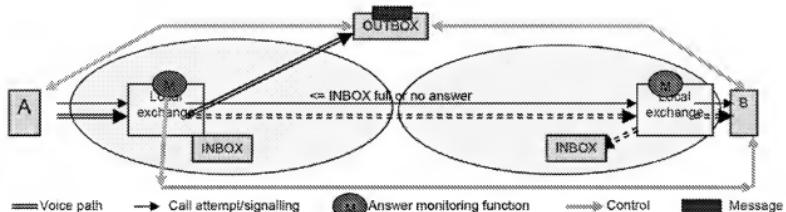
(Applicant) invention high level block diagram (provided below) illustrates, the present invention utilizes an adapted monitoring function that connects to the outbox that is controllable by, and likely paid for by, the calling party (sender), instead of the sender connecting to a receiver's inbox as is normal.

The system provides voicemail access over the telephone network, indicating message number, etc. with the ability to play messages to the telephone user. For text type messages, such as facsimile and e-mail, the system converts the text into speech and plays the speech to the telephone user. The system allows a personal computer user to obtain the data network access using an Internet browser. The browser is used to access information about the messages stored and is used to download and play the messages via data streaming in the case of a voice or video messages or view the messages in the case of text type messages, such as facsimile and e-mail. The user can also perform the other typical messaging functions over the data network connection that are provided for telephone access, such as saving and deleting messages, group list administration and other administration tasks.

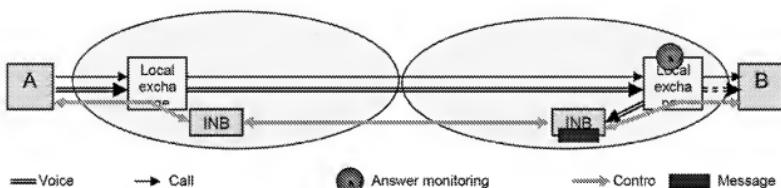
The Applicant has illustrated the construction of the Applicant's present invention and the AlaLaurila and Eason references in order to show the differences (see below). The Ericsson depicts a high level illustration of the present invention where a message sender (A) sends a message, of one of the types noted in the claims, to an outbox that belongs to the Sender. The reason that the message goes to the sender's Outbox could be a full inbox of the receiver (B) or no answer, or the message could be too big for the receiver's inbox.

The monitoring function detects when the message is sent, where the message is destined and causes an alert (type chosen by the sender) that identifies the sender's Outbox (unique URL) to be sent to the receiver. This notification could be by email, telephone notice or MSM. The receiver connects to the sender's Outbox and provides authentication after which the message is provided to the receiver. The message could be too large for the receiver's mail box, the receiver's mailbox could be full, any number of reasons could cause the sender to send the message to the outbox instead of the receiver.

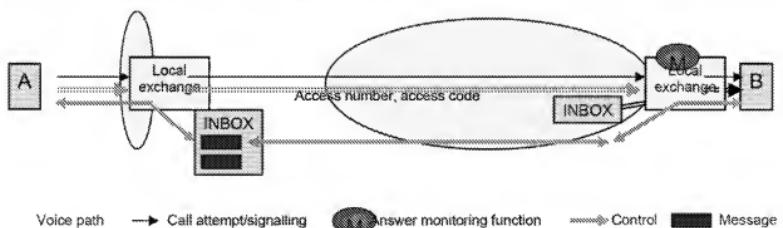
The Ericsson solution; control by calling party via calling party Outbox with local monitoring



The Eason solution; control by calling party via calling party



The AlaLaurila alternative; forwarding a received message or pre-recorded message in own inbox



As depicted above, both the AlaLaurila and Eason references use inboxes; in the case of AlaLaurila, the sender's (A) own inbox. The inboxes of the cited art are standard inboxes each belonging to the sender or the receiver. Monitoring is done only at the local exchange of the receiver in the AlaLaurila reference as in the Eason reference.

The Applicant's configuration discloses the use of an outbox that is assigned to and used exclusively by the sender. The present invention monitors the sender actions and detects when a message is sent to the outbox and to whom the message is sent. The URL of the outbox is then sent to the receiver along with the access information to the sender's outbox. Both of the cited art references fail to provide a separate outbox that is controlled by the sender and access to the outbox is only available from the sender.

As the AlaLaurila reference does not disclose the use of an outbox that is exclusive to a sender and controlled exclusively by the sender both in storing outgoing messages in the outbox, allowing access by authorized receivers and by allowing editing of messages stored in the outbox. Since the normal function of an outbox is for holding messages to be sent, to allow a receiver to access the outbox is very different from and not disclosed by the Ala-Laurila reference. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 1, 29 and 30 and the respective dependent claims, 2-8, 12-28, 31-37 and 41-50.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claims 9 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ala-Laurila in view of Eason et al (US Patent No. 6,999,566). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Eason reference is cited for disclosing notifying a sender of a stored message of changes in a status of the stored message since the Ala-Laurila reference fails to disclose this limitation. The Applicant respectfully contends that Eason does not disclose the other limitations missing from the Ala-Laurila reference, that of storing outgoing messages in a sender's Outbox and allowing a receiver access to the Outbox to retrieve or view messages that are authorized by the sender for only the receiver. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 9 and 38 since a combination of the two references does not disclose the missing limitations.

The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ala-Laurila in view of Horvitz (US Publication No. 2004/0254998). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Horvitz reference is cited for disclosing notifying a sender of a and alert of changes in a status of the alert since the Ala-Laurila reference fails to disclose this limitation. The Applicant respectfully contends that Horvitz does not disclose the other limitations missing from the Ala-Laurila reference, that of storing outgoing messages in a sender's Outbox and allowing a receiver access to the Outbox to retrieve or view messages that are authorized by the sender for only the receiver. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 10 and 39 since a combination of the two references does not disclose the missing limitations.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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